

MINUTES
UTAH
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY
LICENSING BOARD
MEETING

September 16, 2005

Room 428 – 4th Floor – 9:00 A.M.
Heber Wells Building

CONVENED: 9:00 A.M.

ADJOURNED: 2:00 P.M.

Bureau Manager:
Board Secretary:

Noel Taxin
Karen McCall

Board Members Present:

Richard Nielsen
Jean N Soderquist, PhD
Karen Feinauer
James M. Harper, PhD, Chairperson

Board Members Absent:

Vacant Position

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Read and approve the June 3, 2005 minutes.

Mr. Nielsen made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Dr. Soderquist seconded the motion. **The Board vote was unanimous.**

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENTS:

9:30 A.M.

Richard Chidester, Probationary Interview

Mr. Chidester met for his probationary interview. Mr. Chidester submitted documentation of completing 24 hours of CE, the supervision report from May 11, 2005 and a current report from September 7, 2005. Mr. Chidester stated that he and the supervisor, Shondell Knowlton, have discussion meetings but have not reviewed the client files and notes that Mr. Chidester is responsible for. Mr. Chidester shared that he often opens his sessions with prayer for a more

peaceful setting. Mr. Chidester requested the Board to consider termination of probation.

Dr. Harper conducted the interview.

The Board determined Mr. Chidester is out of compliance with the supervision requirements. The Board clarified that Mr. Chidester and the supervisor must document the following:

- 1. Review all clinical written records.**
- 2. Review together issues of religious practice such as praying with clients. Supervisor should discuss philosophy regarding appropriateness of opening sessions with prayer.**
- 3. Request the supervisor to submit a completed report form that includes but is not limited to a more detailed evaluation report regarding comments on the licensee's dependability, interpersonal relationships, honesty, integrity and clinical judgment and competence and responses to criticism, a statement regarding issues or potential problems related to Mr. Chidester being safe or unsafe to practice.**

Dr. Harper stated he would contact Shondel Knowlton to discuss the situation and then draft a letter addressing the Board concerns for the Division to review and to mail to Mr. Chidester and Ms. Knowlton.

Mr. Chidester's request for early termination was denied.

An appointment was made for Mr. Chidester to meet again December 16, 2005.

10:00 A.M.

John Christensen, Probationary Interview

Mr. Christensen met for his probationary interview. Mr. Christensen briefly explained the incident that resulted in his being on probation. Mr. Christensen stated he is now taking better notes and making sure those notes are in each client file. Mr. Christensen submitted a written paper regarding his experience, the lessons learned from the experience and formally requested the Board to consider termination of

probation.

Dr. Harper conducted the interview.

The Board reviewed Mr. Christensen's file and determined Mr. Christensen is in compliance with the Stipulation and Order.

Dr. Soderquist made a motion to terminate probation. Ms. Feinauer seconded the motion. The Board vote was unanimous.

10:30 A.M.

Richard Hanks, Probationary Interview

Mr. Hanks met for his probationary interview.

Ms. Taxin, Bureau Manager, was introduced to Mr. Hanks.

Dr. Harper conducted the interview.

Mr. Hanks asked if all his reports have been received as they were to have been sent. Mr. Hanks stated he is counseling with more couples and feeling better about his counseling skills and more aware of ethical issues. Mr. Hanks shared that he is going to close the Hurricane office and work out of St. George only. Mr. Hanks requested the Board to consider termination of probation 3 months early.

The Board reviewed Mr. Hanks file and noted that 2 reports from Matt Eschler, the supervisor, are not in the file.

Ms. Feinauer made the following motion: If the 2 reports are received prior to December 11, 2005, the date of termination of probation, termination of probation will be granted. Dr. Nielsen seconded the motion. The board vote was unanimous.

11:00 A.M.

Craig M. Ramsey, Probationary Interview

Mr. Ramsey met for his probationary interview.

Ms. Taxin, Bureau Manager, was introduced to Mr. Ramsey.

Mr. Ramsey briefly shared the incident that brought Mr. Ramsey before the Board. Mr. Ramsey stated that

he does not intend to ever go back into private practice nor to supervise others. With the position Mr. Ramsey currently has, he finishes his work and goes home.

The Board noted that the employer submitted a good report. An appointment was made for Mr. Ramsey to meet again in 1 year.

12:00 P.M.

Thomas Coleman, Probationary Interview

Mr. Coleman met for his probationary interview. Mr. Coleman asked if the Board received his reports and request for early termination. Mr. Coleman stated he must have an unencumbered license to continue his employment.

The Board secretary apologized for the misunderstanding regarding scheduling Mr. Coleman's appointment.

Dr. Harper conducted the interview.

The Board noted that Mr. Coleman's reports have been received. The Board noted Mr. Coleman completed courses in anger management and domestic violence and has complied with the Stipulation and Order.

Dr. Nielsen made a motion to termination probation based on completion of the requirements in the Stipulation and Order. Dr. Soderquist seconded the motion. The Board vote was unanimous.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Chairperson

Dr. Nielsen made a motion for Dr. Harper to continue as chairperson. Dr. Soderquist seconded the motion. The Board vote was unanimous.

FYI

Ms. Taxin notified the Board of Dr. Jerry Harris resigning due to being relocated by his employer. Ms. Taxin asked the Board for a list of names of licensees who might be interested.

The Board expressed that Dr. Harris will be missed. The Board recommended LaNae Valentine be contacted regarding interest to serve. Dr.

Harper volunteered to contact Ms. Valentine and to request her to submit a letter of interest, a copy of her resume and a copy of her license.

Education Review

Dr. Harper requested clarification regarding the current process of reviewing applications as applications have not been presented to the Board recently for the Board to review.

Ms. Taxin stated that most applications have been complete and the Division staff have reviewed and approved those applications. There are very few applications received with the education from an institution not accredited by COAMFTE, CHEA or ACE. Ms. Taxin stated that she has discussed the issue with the Division attorneys regarding different ways of holding the applications until the education is completed. The attorneys have advised Ms. Taxin and Division staff to deny the applications and let the individuals reapply after the education requirements have been met.

Proposed Rules

The Board reviewed the proposed rules and requested a few minor revisions.

Dr. Nielsen made a motion to accept the proposed rules with minor revisions. Ms. Feinauer seconded the motion. The Board vote was unanimous.

The Board requested Ms. Taxin to move forward with a hearing as soon as possible.

License Designation

Dr. Nielsen asked if the DOPL web site could indicate the level of education for each licensee.

Ms. Taxin responded that she would check into this issue.

Dr. Soderquist asked if the license could have the PhD added as Marriage and Family Therapists are paid according to the level of their education.

Ms. Taxin stated that she would check on this issue.

Dr. Harper stated that insurance companies reimburse according to the level of education.

FYI

Ms. Taxin reported that when Ms. Hendren was with the Division, she agreed to allow individuals who have completed their education requirements to be licensed prior to graduation with a letter from the college or university.

Ms. Taxin stated that, upon review, the law does not allow for licensing prior to graduation. The law refers to submitting certified transcripts and the Division will only accept official transcripts with the degree posted. **The Board concurred with Ms. Taxin and the law in requiring education to be completed and graduation posted in order to have the license issued.**

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR:

December 16, 2005

MEETING ADJOURNED AT:

2:00 P.M.

Date Approved

Chairperson, Utah Marriage & Family Therapy
Licensing Board

Date Approved

Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational &
Professional Licensing